

Art Unit: 3725

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Andrew J. Heinisch on Thursday October 2, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

- a) Claim 9 has been replaced with:

--Method for manufacturing grinding balls comprising the following steps:

- at least one of mixing and grinding raw materials by dry or wet processes in order to form a slurry;
- passing said slurry through a granulation means or process;
- selecting by sieving the balls obtained with the return back to the mixer of the balls of inadequate grain size;
- drying the balls of correct grain size;
- fritting the balls of correct grain size between 1400°C and 1600°C followed by a packaging step; and thereby

Producing grinding balls made of fritted ceramic comprising the following components (in % by weight):

- 18 to 50% mullite ($3\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 2\text{SiO}_2$)
- 9 to 25% zirconia ($\text{ZrO}_2 + \text{HfO}_2$) stabilised by 0.5 to 3% of rare earth oxides
- 25 to 72% alumina (Al_2O_3).--.

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- b) In claim 10 line ~~2~~³, --or process-- has been added after "means".

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- c) In claim 12 line ~~2~~³, "methods" has been replaced with --means or process--.

- d) In claim 13: